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Environment and Human Health, Inc. Supports Bill S.B. 661 - The comprehensive Bottle Bill

Chairs Senator Ed Meyer, Representative Richard Roy, and Members of the Environment Committee:

Environment and Human Health, Inc., (EHHI) a non-profit organization comprised of nine members who are physicians, public health professionals and policy experts dedicated to protecting human health from environmental harms, strongly supports S.B. No. 661, which expands the redemption provisions of the bottle law to include water, juice, and other non-carbonated bottles. Our endorsement rests on the following facts.

1. Nearly 30 billion plastic water bottles are sold in the US each year and nationally, and estimates of recycling range between 14 and 30%. This figure now coupled with all the juice, iced tea and other non-carbonated bottles presents a staggering figure.
2. Discarded bottles that are incinerated release pollutants to the air or they are placed in landfills, and slowly degrade, leaching chemical ingredients into soils and groundwater.
3. Most of these bottles are plastic, and most plastics are made from petroleum. The failure to recycle plastics each year in the US requires the use of additional petroleum to produce "virgin" plastic. The Earth Institute estimated that within the US this requires 18 million barrels of crude oil annually, increasing US dependence on foreign supplies.
4. We need ALL- not only the water bottles - to have a deposit. The juices and iced tea sales have grown tremendously in the past decade and these bottles need to be included as well into a bottle redemption law.

Given the increasing severity of this problem - EHHI strongly endorses S.B. 661.

Thank you,
Nancy Alderman, President
Environment and Human Health, Inc.